THE

FIFTH VOLUME

OF

OBSERVATORS,

FROM

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March 1. 1707.

LONDON,

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE EPISTLE TO THE READER.

READER,

YOU may well wonder, that I ſhould venture a ſixth Voyage on ſo troubleſom a Sea, and in ſo brittle a Bark, that has ſuffer'd ſo much by Winds, Storms, and Tempeſts, and has been ſo much batter'd by ſo many Enemies of all Sorts.

Had I been a Pyrate, no good Man would commiſerate my Condition; but I am no ſuch Perſon, though I have no Commiſſion from the Government. The Laws of Nature, and thoſe of the Land, do juſtify any Perſon to ſign his own Commiſſion in this Caſe, and to defend the Liberties of his dear Country, in what Manner he can.

I have met with publick Aſſaults, private Aſſaſſinations, and innumerable Difficulties; but ſtill I ſtand my Ground, truſting to the Armour of a good Conſcience, and a good Cauſe.

And in the five Stages I have run already, no one can prove me guilty of any one Act againſt the Queen, or the legal Eſtabliſhment of the Crown in the Proteſtant Line: My only Crime, is, oppoſing thoſe that oppoſe the Government, and crying out, Stop Thief, *when I ſee the* Banditti *running away with the Publick Treaſures. Is not this every Man's Duty?*

No

The Epiſtle to the Reader.

No one, ſurely, will blame me for vindicating the Queen's Right to the Crown, but the Jacobites *and* High-Flyers: *And thoſe are People whoſe good Word is a Scandal.*

Diſintereſted Perſons won't blame me for diſcovering Publick Frauds and Cheats, becauſe it is for the Common Good and Benefit of the Nation, as well as for the Queen's Intereſt; and tho' I have ſuffer'd on this Account, I am content as long as I have done Good thereby.

And for the Perſonal Reflections complain'd of, I have this to ſay, that I never reflected on any, but ſuch as had firſt reflected on me, or had misbehav'd themſelves towards the Queen, or the Publick.

And the greateſt Man in the Kingdom has no more Authority to abuſe me, than I have to abuſe him.

I foreſee this ſixth will be a dangerous Voyage, Storms are gathering apace, great Things are upon the Wheel, and how the Rotation will prove, is beſt known to infinite Wiſdom; but 'tis our Duty to hope and act the beſt for our Country, which ſhall ever be the Part of

JOHN TUTCHIN.

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